

H. R. 662.

[Report No. 58.]

FEBRUARY 16, 1847.

Read twice, and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NIVEN, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported the following bill :

A BILL

To regulate enlistments in the army, navy, and marine corps.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 the prescribed oath of allegiance required to be taken by every
4 recruit who may enlist into the army, navy, and marine corps of
5 the United States, may be administered by the recruiting offi-
6 cer, and the said oath shall hereafter embrace the declaration of
7 the recruit as to his parentage, age, and supposed place of birth,
8 to which he shall subscribe his name in presence of the recruit-
9 ing officer or magistrate ; and if any person to whom such oath
10 shall be administered shall knowingly and wilfully swear falsely
11 therein, he shall be deemed guilty of perjury, and shall, on con-
12 viction thereof, be punished by fine not exceeding two hundred
13 dollars, and by imprisonment for a term not less than six months
14 nor more than two years.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That every person who*
2 shall entice away, or by any species of persuasion or other con-
3 trivance, directly or indirectly, induce or influence any person

4 so enlisted in the army and navy of the United States, or the
5 marine corps, to desert therefrom, or aid or assist any such per-
6 son to desert, or knowingly harbor, protect, or conceal any de-
7 serter from said army, navy, or marine corps, shall be deemed
8 guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall forfeit and pay for every
9 such offence one hundred dollars, to be recovered by action of
10 debt in the circuit or district court of the United States having
11 jurisdiction over the place where the offence shall be committed,
12 or where the offender shall be found, for the benefit of any per-
13 son who will sue for the same ; and such offender shall likewise
14 pay to the United States all arrearages of pay or other advances
15 which shall be due from such deserter at the time of his deser-
16 tion, to be recovered as other debts to the United States are re-
17 covered.